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INFORMATION
February 11, 1972

MEMORANDUM FOR: HENRY A. KISSINGER
FROM: TOM LATIMER
SUBJECT: Soviet Sinologists Discuss Sino-Soviets
US Relations

25X1 The attached report contains some views [redacted]

25X1 The Soviet policy of encirclement of China and the power structure of the Chinese regime.

ON-FILE NSC RELEASE INSTRUCTIONS APPLY

-- [redacted] felt that China was reacting to the Soviet encirclement policy by inviting President Nixon to China, by attempting to convince the nations of Southeast Asia that Peking has no aggressive intent toward them, by offering advantageous economic opportunities to Japan, by contesting Soviet influence wherever possible and by maintaining military pressure along the Soviet border.

25X1 [redacted] agreed that the current Chinese regime is exclusively a diumvirate of Mao and Chou and that each is awaiting the opportunity to crush the other.

-- In that regard, Chou has staked his political future on the new American policy while Mao has carefully left himself room to denounce Chou if that policy fails.

MORI C03317497

25X1 -- [redacted] think the U.S. is in a weak position in regard to China because it has limited itself to dealings with Mao and Chou while the Soviets have good friends among those who will succeed the current leadership.

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Regarding President Nixon's trip, [] did not think it would bring an end to the Vietnam war, [] believe China is fully ready to withdraw support for Hanoi if the Chinese could get an advantageous package deal with the U.S.

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-- Should concrete results be achieved from President Nixon's visit to China, [] felt that the Soviet reaction would take two forms: first, an attitude of increased accommodation with the U.S. and secondly, a willingness to appease Japanese desires.

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